

tingent funds of any of the almost two dozen examining boards in his department. Colonel Huntington had gone on record as opposed to Assembly Bill 477, and if he had maintained that attitude the bill probably would never have gone on to passage. In a conference with the editor, Colonel Huntington discussed the measure in kindest fashion, and after conference put forth the counter proposition that the initial appropriation or allocation be reduced from seventy to fifty thousand dollars. This was a generous and broad-visioned action on Colonel Huntington's part and made possible for the first time the real possibility of passage of the measure in the present session of the Legislature. To Colonel Huntington, therefore, the medical profession is also indebted.

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The Notable Service Rendered by Dr. Junius B. Harris, President of the California Medical Association.—And now comes one other person, who through his whole-hearted influence and efforts largely made possible the passage of Assembly Bill 477. This is none other than our colleague, the President of the California Medical Association, Dr. Junius B. Harris of Sacramento, who, as chairman of the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, was acting as the watch guard of the medical profession's interests at Sacramento. It was Doctor Harris who selected Assemblyman Nielsen to sponsor the bill, and it was Doctor Harris who also watched the measure at every turn. The task of Doctor Harris was particularly hard because in fighting other measures which were inimical to the best interests of the medical profession and the public health, he naturally brought down upon himself the opposition of the proponents of those measures which he had so successfully fought. To have been militant in so many directions and yet to have so conducted himself as not to have brought violent opposition into being for anything he particularly espoused, is a real tribute to his finesse and generalship. The California Medical Association may take real pride in this splendid service which President Harris has again rendered on its behalf.

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The Coöperation of Other Friends.—Mention cannot be made here of all others who gave aid, for the outlook was not overbright at the outset, and certain influential sources of aid were solicited. The editor would be derelict, however, did he not mention the support given him by Doctors Walter B. Coffey, John H. Graves and John Gallwey, all of San Francisco, and each a friend of Governor Rolph, who acquainted Governor Rolph with the purposes and merits of Assembly Bill 477 in such manner as to secure his kindly attitude.

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The Text and Scope of the Bill.—Space will not permit a discussion in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE of the text and

scope of the bill. But inasmuch as the measure will not become a law until ninety days after signature by the Governor, there will be ample opportunity to again present the subject.

In the meantime the above facts are given to the members of the California Medical Association. No apology is made for the space used in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for that purpose. For as time goes on, the bigness and capacity for service which this state medical library, with its major branches at San Francisco and Los Angeles, will render the members of the medical profession and indirectly the people of California, will be more and more realized by physicians. Moreover, the story, as here outlined, will show how many and great are the trials and tribulations in the handling of legislative programs.

It has taken the California Medical Association all of seventy-five years to accumulate in its reserve fund twice the amount of this initial state library appropriation of fifty thousand dollars. Here comes now this splendid state institution which should go on year after year, giving increasing service to the medical men and women and to the people of this great State of California. It is surely a something to be grateful for, and it is at the same time a tangible something that is a variation of the accepted attitude of the great lay public which accepts gratuitous services from the medical profession, and so often gives little or no real thanks in return.

If Governor Rolph signs Assembly Bill 477, as we hope and believe he will do, and if he does this before the June issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE goes to press, we shall be doubly happy to write a further paragraph before bringing these present comments on this library bill to a close. Pending such action by the Governor we pause and mark time, but in real optimism for the ultimate outcome.

CORPORATIONS CANNOT PRACTICE MEDICINE FOR PROFIT IN CALI- FORNA: S. B. 175 (FELLOW) DEFEATED

Senate Bill 175 (Fellow): Which Would Have Given Corporations the Right to Practice Medicine for Profit.—The particular bill which was presented to the legislature which has just adjourned, and which from the standpoint of infringement on the rights of physicians gave the officers of the California Medical Association the greatest concern, was the proposed law known as Senate Bill 175 (Fellow). That measure was introduced by Senator Roy Fellom of San Francisco.

The vicious nature of some of the provisions of that bill was indicated in this column in the CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE issues of April, 1931, page 283, and of May, 1931, page 379.

This S. B. 175 (Fellow), had it been enacted into law, would practically have nullified the rul-

ings of Superior Court Judge Samuel R. Blake which were outlined in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE of November, 1930, page 846. Senate Bill 175 would have thrown wide open the door to lay corporations existing for the primary purpose of making money out of the care of sick and injured persons, and would have given such corporations legal recognition to practice medicine. And this in practically as full power as is granted to medical men and women who, to become eligible to take examinations to secure licenses for legal recognition to practice medicine and surgery, must go through years of study, with expenditure of thousands of dollars, to acquire what is construed to be adequate knowledge and training for the practice of the healing art.

* * *

The Struggle Against Senate Bill 175 (Fellom) Was Constant and Difficult.—The California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation had a constant battle on its hands in giving opposition to this measure. That it ultimately went down to defeat in the Senate Chamber is a tribute not only to the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy, but to the county committees and colleagues who in all parts of California contacted with their respective state senators and acquainted them with the real facts at issue. Here was an instance where constructive and united effort by the medical profession was able to overcome a destructive onslaught from lay sources. It was a hard-fought battle, but the end results justified all the efforts expended.

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Similar Bills May Be Expected at the Next Legislative Session: Present Work for Component County Societies.—For the time being, the victory is ours, but it will be surprising if a similar bill or bills do not present themselves again when the next legislature meets two years from now.

Which emphasizes the adage, "In times of peace, prepare for war," and the application of which is, that all members of the California Medical Association should resolve to take somewhat more of a direct interest in civic politics, at least to the extent of knowing who the present legislators are, what have been their records in the recent legislature on public health matters, and what should be the attitude of members of the medical profession when such legislators come up for re-election. In such a program the initiative should be taken by the county society committees on public policy and legislation and by the officers of component county societies, who in their reports of their own work could acquaint the members of their respective societies regarding these matters.

For the benefit of those who may have overlooked the lists, mention is here made that the complete roster of our present legislators was printed in the March CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, pages 224 and 225. When these Assemblymen and Senators return to their home

communities, seek out those who gave aid in medical and public health work and express your appreciation for such coöperation.

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What Happened to the Proposed "Licensure of Clinics" Bill: County Society Studies on Clinics.—Some members of the California Medical Association who are interested in the "clinic problem" of California (which was reported on in some detail by Dr. John C. Ruddock in the July CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 527), may wonder why no bill was introduced in the recent legislature to provide for licensure and supervision of clinics.

Mention was made in the April 1931 CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 285, that such a bill was in preparation.

As a matter of fact such a bill was drafted and was ready for introduction when it occurred to the officers of the Association and to the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation that if such a measure was introduced it might have been seized upon by the proponents of Senate Bill 175 (in case that measure went down to defeat), and be so amended as to secure almost the same end objects as those intended and incorporated in Senate Bill 175.

Therefore, from the standpoint of good tactics, it was unanimously decided not to introduce such a clinic licensure bill in the 1931 session of the legislature.

Here again physicians have an excellent example to show how difficult it is at times to bring into being reforms upon which all are seemingly agreed as being necessary. In this particular case, had such a clinic bill been seized upon by the proponents of Senate Bill 175, the damaging end results to the public health and medical interests of California would have been far greater than can accrue through clinics now in operation.

The clinic problem will continue to be a subject of earnest study by the officers of the California Medical Association. The work done this year in the preparation of such a proposed law has not been wasted. Component county societies can render efficient aid by making investigations of the clinics in their respective communities and forwarding copies of their reports to the central California Medical Association office at San Francisco, so that the same may be referred to the proper California Medical Association officers and committees for further consideration. The earlier these investigations are started in the different counties, the greater will be the opportunity to render effective service when the time for further action arrives.

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL HEARING

Presentation of the Los Angeles County Hospital Case in Last Month's "California and Western Medicine."—In last month's issue of this journal, page 376, the controversy (for so it might be called) which has been going on at the Los Angeles County General Hospital was commented